

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2007

Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Susan Austin	Amy Axel	Kevin Racine
Niki Biggs	Angela Barnett	Andrea Wiley
Debbie Braam	Gilbert Kennedy	
Bob Coen	Laurie Kwiedorowicz	
Helene Dubay	Councilman Guthrie	
Councilman Guthrie	Andre Sconion	
Kathy Halliday		
Marc Weinstein		

- I. Chairperson Debbie Braam called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the June 25, 2007 meeting were approved with correction.
- III. Presentation: Disabilities Coordinator Sharon Grzanka presented Chairperson Debbie Braam a proclamation signed by County Executive David R. Craig, recognizing the 17th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, encouraging “the citizens of Harford County to join me in renewing our commitment to equality of access and opportunity for all people.”



Committee Reports:

A. Executive Committee:

1. Membership: Co-Chairs Kathy Halliday and Marc Weinstein provided the following report:
 - a) eleven applications for Commission membership in the category of County citizen with a disability have been received and nine phone interviews have been completed;
 - b) Marc introduced Reverend Alvin Ellison, an applicant for Commission membership;
 - c) the committee will present its recommendations to the Commission at the September 24, 2007 meeting;
 - d) Debbie Braam announced that she had received official notification of her appointment as Chairperson.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Renters and Homeowners Program: To date, two ramps have been constructed: one in Abingdon and one in Edgewood. The third ramp is being installed this week in Bel Air. There are two applications pending approval. They are both from Aberdeen residents.
2. Housing Coalition: No report.

C. Education Committee: Debbie Braam reported that:

1. The Expo for Transitioning Students will be held on March 8, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
2. The Marketing Coordinator of the Department of Community Services has created a new logo to match the expanded audience: high school students with disabilities on both certificate and diploma tracks.
3. The committee has selected the theme, "Guideposts for Success", based on the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth's Guideposts for Success: School Preparation, Career Preparation, Youth Development and Leadership, Connecting Activities, and Family Involvement.
4. Preliminary ideas include a keynote address on transition issues followed by workshops on Social Security; getting

and keeping a job; support services available at the college level; money management; etc.

5. It was suggested that registration for both Expo attendees and exhibitors, with an electronic payment option, be available on-line.
6. Next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday, August 29, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

D. Government and Community Relations Committee

1. Commission web page: Bob Coen and Sharon Grzanka met with the Department of Community Services' Marketing Coordinator, Becky Macek, to discuss ideas for the update of the Commission's web page. A follow-up meeting with the County's webmaster will be held on August 8, 2007. Commissioners are asked to forward any input and suggestions to Bob at r.l.coen@worldnet.att.net or to Sharon at disability@harfordcountymd.gov.
2. Legislative Committee: No report.
3. Transportation Steering Committee: Kevin Racine reported on regional transit issues and announced that a public input meeting, Transportation Outlook 2035, will be held on July 31, 2007, from 3:00-8:00 p.m. at the Harford County Administrative Office Building, 220 South Main Street, Bel Air.
6. Harford County Town Hall Meeting: The event is planned for Monday, December 4, 2007, 6:00-8:30 p.m. The next planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School" in Bel Air.

E. Employment Committee:

1. Annual Awards Luncheon: Co-chair Niki Biggs reported that:
 - a) The Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007, at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Club.
 - b) Nomination forms are available on-line at www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities.

- c) Secretary Cathy Raggio has accepted the committee's invitation to be the keynote speaker at the luncheon.
 - d) Sharon Grzanka contacted the Executive Director of Harford Cable Network (HCN) about taping the awards luncheon. HCN has already committed to two events this year, but will pencil in the awards luncheon for 2008. At the webpage update meeting, Becky recommended leaving a card with the Commission's web address at each place setting at the luncheon, advising attendees that a PowerPoint presentation with photos of nominees will be available online.
- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Sharon Grzanka distributed a copy of a Baltimore Sun article on John Hudson, the keynote speaker at the 2006 Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Annual Awards Luncheon. The article traced John's quest to learn to drive, pass the MD driver's test, and to acquire a modified vehicle. The article credited John's tenacity and that of his DORS counselor, Deborah Dunn.
- V. Old Business: See committee reports.
- VI. New Business: There was none.
- VII. Public Comment and Announcements: There were none.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.